

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Penalty For Private Use To Avoid
Payment Of Postage, \$300

Boston File #61-213 DR. MIRA FORD; TREASON

Received

2-5-43
2-5-43

1. 2 Front view photographs of DR. MIRA FORD
2. 2 Side View photographs of DR. MIRA FORD

(1 of each sent to Baltimore 2/6/43)

3. Negative of above photographs

2-5-43

To Bureau Reg. mail 2/14/43 per
6-16-43

61-213-1A
FEB 13 1943
FEB 13 1943

DP

Date Received 6-16-45
From Boston Daily Globe
(Name of contributor)

(Address of contributor)
By T. J. McCarthy
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ()
No (X)

Description: Copies of recordings
by King
File No. 61-213-1A(4)

— • RALPH HARRIS COMPANY • —

SINCE 1900

CAMERAS ★ PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES

47 BROMFIELD STREET -- BOSTON





FBI BALTIMORE 1-29-43 5-07 PM JRC
SACS BOSTON AND NEW HAVEN
OPAL. DR. EZRA POUND, TREASON. OUTSTANDING LEAD MUST BE COVERED
IMMEDIATELY. EXPEDITE.
SOUCY

1/29/43
Bring file
immediately
ngp

Johnson see
isuffin

61-213-2	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JAN 29 1943	
BOSTON FIELD OFFICE	
ROUTED TO	<i>[Signature]</i>

COPY

JAC: ELC



Date: November 30, 1942

To: SAC, Baltimore

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
EDWARD LEON DELANEY, was.,
Subject: Edward Leopold Delaney, E. D. Ward,
Edward Delane;
TREASON.

There are attached hereto copies of a memorandum dated November 24, 1942, which contains a summary of information in the Bureau filed regarding subject Edward Leo Delaney, an American citizen who since December 8, 1941, has broadcasted anti-American propaganda to the United States over the German propaganda short-wave radio from Berlin, Germany. A majority of subject's broadcasts since that date have been monitored by the Federal Communications Commission Monitoring Station, "Shinda," located at Silver Hill, Prince Georges County, Maryland. Transcriptions have been made of these broadcasts and in some instances recordings.

The Department has been furnished copies of these transcriptions and now requests that additional investigation be conducted as expeditiously as possible inasmuch as the matter is being considered for grand jury action. The Department also informs that venue will lie in the district where the broadcasts were received, which in this case is Silver Hill, Maryland, and therefore your office is being made the office of origin.

It is suggested that the offices receiving copies of this letter with enclosure, listed at the bottom of this letter and preceded by an asterisk, cover the undeveloped leads set forth in the attached memorandum in conjunction with the undeveloped leads set forth in the following related cases, which are being forwarded under separate cover:

*JANE ANDERSON, with aliases
TREASON

CONSTANCE DREXEL, with aliases
TREASON

ROBERT HENRY BEST, with aliases
TREASON

*FRED W. KALTENBACH, with aliases
TREASON

*DOUGLAS CHANDLER, with alias
TREASON

*DR. EZRA POUND
TREASON.

61-213-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JAN 30 1943	
BOSTON FIELD OFFICE	
ROUTED TO	FILE

The Denver Office will interview Mr. Siegfried Wagener in connection with this case and also the above mentioned cases preceded by an asterisk.

It is desired that the information developed be set forth in detailed report form in each case, even though it amounts to repetition, for the purpose of facilitating proper supervision of these cases at the Seat of Government.

These cases are considered as being of paramount importance, particularly in view of the interest of the President, the Office of War Information and the Department, and should be given immediate and continuous investigative attention until all leads are exhausted.

It is imperative that these instructions be strictly adhered to.

Enclosure

cc - * Washington, D. C.
* New York City
* Chicago
* Philadelphia
Denver
Springfield
Boston

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

FILE NO. **61-213** **Mad**

REPORT MADE AT BOSTON, MASS.	DATE WHEN MADE 2-6-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-1,2,3-43	REPORT MADE BY HERBERT J. JOHNSON, JR.
TITLE DR. EZRA POUND			CHARACTER OF CASE TREASON
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Result of interview with JAMES J. ANGLETON, who knows Subject intimately, set out. ANGLETON never heard any of Subject's broadcasts but would definitely recognize his voice. Professor THEODORE SPENCER, Harvard University, with whom Subject lived for approximately five days, may recognize Subject's voice. OTTO ZAUSMER, Boston Globe, short-wave listening post, has two recorded Subject's broadcasts made by him October 2, 1941 and September 19, 1942. ZAUSMER states he never would forget that voice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p> <p>Reference:</p> <p>Report of Special Agent BENEDICT P. CRUISE, Washington, D. C., dated January 13, 1943. Teletype from the Baltimore Field Division to the Boston Field Division and New Haven Field Division dated January 23, 1943.</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>JAMES J. ANGLETON, student at Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Mass., was interviewed at his residence 19 Farwell Street, Cambridge, Mass., at which time he advised that he was intimately acquainted with Dr. EZRA POUND, having first met DR. POUND in the summer of 1937 at Rapallo, Italy. The following summer PCUND came to the United States and lectured at Harvard University where he spent approximately ten days, during which time he resided with Professor SPENCER of the English Department, Harvard University. When POUND left Harvard he went to New Haven where he spent a few days, then proceeded to Washington, D. C., where he spent approximately one month and then went to Hamilton College where an honorary doctor's degree was conferred upon him.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p style="text-align: center;">COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5-Bureau (Att. J. K. Mumford) (AMSD)</p> <p>3-Baltimore (Enc.)</p> <p>2-Boston</p>			<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: 2em;"> 61 213 4 </div>

Leaving Hamilton College POUND proceeded to New York City and sailed on the Conti de Savoy. ANGLETON stated that it was largely due to his suggestion that Dr. POUND made this trip to the United States. ANGLETON further advised that, in his opinion, DR. POUND is probably the leading literary figure of this century and undoubtedly the most outstanding American author and poet who has ever existed. He stated that he has a great deal of respect for POUND's ability and that he has discussed with him on many occasions both literature and POUND's political views.

He went on to explain that he was educated abroad in view of the fact that his father represented business interests there, and that due to this fact he had many contacts with POUND. As to POUND's political theories ANGLETON stated that when POUND gets into the field of economics or politics he proceeds to become irrational and he believes that he has even noted a strain of insanity in these particular fields. He stated that his point of view on this matter is hard to explain, in view of the fact that POUND is so outstanding in his literary endeavors and yet seems to completely lose his rationality when he goes into the field of politics.

An endeavor to explain POUND's political theories, as gathered by the conversations ANGLETON has had with POUND, ANGLETON gave the following views on POUND's political theories. POUND was born in the United States and gained his early education here and he attended the University of Pennsylvania. He went to London at the age of twenty-two and was, at that time, probably the most popular American ever in London. POUND became associated in England with T. S. ELIOT and both as ex-patriots had much in common. There POUND became a good friend of ERNEST HEMINGWAY. POUND was in London during the first World War and at the close of the war joined the ranks of the disillusionment group, which was a group of individuals who were disappointed in the rejection of Wilson's fourteen points by the Allies at the conclusion of the war and who predicted as a result thereof, a subsequent war in Europe. ANGLETON further explained that Sir STA. FORD CRIPPS in England was a member of this group.

Subsequent to the war POUND went to Paris where he developed a tremendously strong anti-Jewish attitude. While in Paris POUND saw and wrote of the corruption that was creeping into the government of the French State, and as a result of these writings found it necessary to leave France, whereupon he went to Rapallo, Italy. ANGLETON further explained that POUND presently lives at Rapallo, Italy with his wife and his parents whom POUND has brought there from the United States. He stated that POUND is somewhat of a curiosity to the people of that community and that when he appears upon the street they speak of him as "the poet".

According to ANGLETON, POUND's whole concern seems to be based upon the social credit theory. ANGLETON went on to explain that this theory involves a strong corporate state and that it is this element in Italy in which Dr. POUND seems to be interested.

He stated that he did not believe Dr. POUND was an advocate of the Fascist form of government, but rather was advocating that portion of the present Italian government which is in accord with his social credit theory, that is to say, the strong corporate state with community ownership of property. ANGLETON went on to explain POUND's theory, present day society should return to the former medieval society of Dante's time, with a strong church state so that the decess of the state would carry with them the sanction of the church.

According to ANGLETON, POUND rationalizes his strong interest in economics and politics by drawing analogy to Dante who was a poet and also wrote in the field of economics. As a concrete example of POUND's theory of operation, ANGLETON explained that when private corporation makes a loan of money to a foreign government, that corporation thereby commits the lives of the people of the country in which that corporation is situated. It thereby creates in that country in which a corporation is created a vested interest in the country to which the loan has been made. In view of this fact, any such loan made by an individual company should first be approved by the people of the country in which that corporation is located.

ANGLETON further explained that he subscribes to most of POUND's theories and believes that they are fundamentally sound. However, he stated POUND is irrational in his treatment of them and has allowed two major considerations to warp his presentation of these theories. These two factors are his extreme anti-Semitic attitude and his strong hatred of the international banking class. As a result of this attitude these two factors permeate all of POUND's political writings. ANGLETON stated that much of POUND's work has been published in a magazine "New English Weekly" published by a man named Orage in London, England, and that many of his articles published in the United States have been published by JAMES LAUGHLIN, publisher of "New Directions", New York City. It is to be noted this is undoubtedly the LAUGHLIN referred to in the reference report.

According to ANGLETON, LAUGHLIN has published many of POUND's books in the United States and some of POUND's books have also been published by the Yale University Press. ANGLETON pointed out that there was a very good article on POUND published by WALTER FITZGERALD, Editor of Time Magazine, shortly before our entry into the war. He further advised that upon our entry into the war, so it was reported in Time Magazine, Italy announced Dr. POUND would no longer broadcast. Many of POUND's articles are also published by the magazine "The Townsman", published in England by RONALD BURGESS.

ANGLETON stated that he has never heard any of Dr. POUND's broadcasts but that he had read a facsimile of one or two in some publication and that they seemed to be absolutely incoherent. He further stated that he has talked to Dr. POUND on the trans-Atlantic telephone, as well as by a ship to shore phone, and that as a result of his close association with Dr. POUND, he is sure that he could recognize Dr. POUND's voice.

He stated that although it would be distasteful for him to do so he would be willing to testify against Dr. POUND if it became necessary. ANGLETON furnished two portrait photographs of Dr. POUND, one a front view, and the other a side view. Copies of these photographs are being forwarded to the Baltimore Field Division as an enclosure.

ANGLETON furnished the following list of individuals whom he believed were closely acquainted with Dr. POUND and could possibly give information relative to him.

ARCHIBALD McLEASH, Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.
Professor FISHER, Professor of Economics, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
Dr. WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS, Rutherford, New Jersey, a co-student of POUND at the University of Pennsylvania.

E. E. CUMMINGS, 4 Patchin Place, Greenwich Village, New York.

JAMES LAUGHLIN, "New Directions", New York City.

RICHARD ALDINGTON, English writer who is in the United States and whose whereabouts would probably be known by LAUGHLIN.

ED WATKINS, a literary agent whose whereabouts would probably also be known by LAUGHLIN.

LOUIS UNTERMYER, Publisher, New York City.

The advisability of contacting the above individuals is being left to the discretion of the office of origin and no leads for that purpose are being set out in this report.

Mr. ANGLETON advised that he was not enrolling at Harvard University for the second semester and that after February 3, 1943 his address would be 150 West 50th Street, New York City.

THEODORE SPENCER, Associate Professor of English, Harvard University, advised that DR. EZRA POUND lived in his home during the time he was at Harvard University, approximately 1938, which was for a period of about five days. He stated that POUND stayed at his home in view of the fact he, SPENCER, was in the English Department and that he had not known POUND prior to that time. He stated that POUND could be extremely borish and uncouth, having little or no refinement. He stated that his attempts at conversations with POUND were successful in producing only four topics of conversation on the part of POUND, namely, that Martin Van Buren was the greatest president the United States ever had; that John Adams was one of the greatest men that ever lived; a strong tirade against the Jews; an equally strong tirade against the international bankers.

SPENCER stated that despite Dr. POUND's ability as a literary figure, he believes the man is mentally unbalanced. He stated that he could not definitely say whether he could recognize Dr. POUND's voice or not, but that he will be willing to testify if it was found that he could recognize the voice.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DANIEL J. GRITWIN:

OTTO ZAUSNER, Boston Globe short-wave listening post, was interviewed at his residence, 51 Mason Terrace, Brookline, Mass., at which time he advised that he had listened to POUND broadcast on a few occasions but that they were of such a nature that they made him sick to listen to them. He stated that POUND has a preacher-like voice, of such a nature that he would never forget the voice. He stated that he had listened to POUND spasmodically, the last time being about two months ago. He stated that he felt he could and would be willing to identify POUND's voice.

He stated that he has two recordings which he has made of broadcasts by POUND, one being made October 3, 1941 and the other September 19, 1942. Mr. ZAUSNER stated he would be willing to loan these recordings to the Bureau if they so desired.

ERNEST S. FISCO, Christian Science short-wave listening post, was interviewed at his residence, 51 Naples Road, Brookline, Mass., regarding any information he might have relative to POUND, with negative results.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ENCLOSURE

BALTIMORE FIELD DIVISION

1. Front view photograph of DR. EZRA POUND.
2. Side view photograph of DR. EZRA POUND.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND		61-21-42	
REPORT MADE AT NEW HAVEN, CONN.	DATE WHEN MADE 2-22-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-20-43	REPORT MADE BY ROYCE R. THOMPSON
TITLE DR. EZRA POUND			CHARACTER OF CASE THRAWSON

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Professor Irving Fisher states he received two or three letters from subject several years ago. Subject visited him in New Haven about five years ago; expressed admiration for Mussolini. Professor Fisher states he would be unable to identify subject's voice.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-84099 - Teletype from Baltimore to New Haven dated 2-11-43.

DETAILS:

Professor IRVING FISHER, 408 Temple Street, Professor of Political Economy, Yale University, was interviewed on February 20, 1943 and stated that Dr. EZRA POUND first came to his attention several years ago when he was in receipt of a letter from subject regarding some of FISHER's writings on financial matters.

Professor FISHER estimated the time of the receipt of the first letter to be about seven to ten years ago. He stated that he later had another letter or two from Dr. POUND and that all these letters were apparently inspired by his own writings, particularly in the line of finance. Professor FISHER stated that he did not know the subject prior to this time. In approximately 1936 or 1937 while Dr. POUND was in this country on a visit, he came by to see Professor FISHER in New Haven and this visit lasted for approximately thirty minutes. Professor FISHER said that this visit was likewise the result of his writings but that in the course of the conversation POUND expressed his admiration for Mussolini with particular reference to the efficiency of the government under such a system. Professor FISHER stated

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COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (Attn. J.K. MEMPHREY) 2 Baltimore 2 Providence 1 New Haven		61-213-5 [Signature] [Signature]	
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">FEB 23 1943</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">PROVIDENCE FIELD OFFICE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ROUTED TO [Signature]</td> </tr> </table>	FEB 23 1943
FEB 23 1943			
PROVIDENCE FIELD OFFICE			
ROUTED TO [Signature]			

get this done - Discreetly

61-21

that the subject was not particularly critical of the United States Government as such but was more or less critical in nature of all beliefs and governments particularly in efficiency and expenditures in government. According to Professor FISHER, the subject appeared sincere in his beliefs and was not a radical type of individual.

He stated that other than this thirty minute visit he had heard nothing more concerning the subject other than a news item which he recently read concerning the investigation being made of the subject at the present time. In regard to the two or three letters which Professor FISHER received from the subject, he stated that these had come from Italy but that they had been destroyed when he moved his office from his home a few years ago. He stated that he associated the subject with Italy and did not know of his ever living in any other country. He said that his association with Dr. POUND had been so very brief and so long ago that he did not believe it possible for him to identify the subject's voice from a recorded transcription.

He added that his nephew, LEONARD BACON, a poet residing at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, might possibly be able to furnish some information concerning this subject. For the information of the Providence Field Division, the subject was born in Hailey, Idaho, October 30, 1885. He lived in England 1911 to 1920; in France, 1920 to 1924 and in Italy, principally at Rapallo 1924 to date. Since December, 1941 Dr. POUND has been broadcasting to America over the Rome radio as a propagandist.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

61-21

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE PROVIDENCE FIELD DIVISION

AT PEACEDALE, R. I.

Will interview LEONARD BACON to determine if he can identify subject's voice from a recorded transcription, can place him in Italy before or after the outbreak of war and any background data. Inasmuch as the Bureau desires this case be given immediate and continuous investigative attention, it is requested that this lead be handled expeditiously.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

FILE NO. **61-4 DMJ**

REPORT MADE AT PROVIDENCE, R. I.	DATE WHEN MADE 2-27-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-26-43	REPORT MADE BY M. CHARLES MCCARTHY
TITLE DR. EZRA POUND			CHARACTER OF CASE TREASON
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: LEONARD BACON now residing at 225 East 74th Street, New York City. Employed as a civilian employee by Army Intelligence in New York City.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*RUC* <i>VR</i></p> <p>REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-34099.</p> <p>Report of Special Agent ROYCE B. THOMPSON, New Haven, Connecticut, February 22, 1943.</p> <p>DETAILS: Mrs. LEONARD BACON, Peacedale, Rhode Island, stated that her husband, LEONARD BACON, is presently residing at 225 East 74th Street, New York City, and is employed as a civilian employee with Army Intelligence in New York City.</p> <p>For the information of the New York Field Division, subject was born in Hailey, Idaho, October 30, 1885. He lived in England from 1911 to 1920; in France from 1920 to 1924; and in Italy, principally at Rapallo, from 1924 to date. Since December, 1941, Dr. POUND has been broadcasting to America over the Rome radio as a propagandist.</p> <p>It should be noted that Professor IRVING FISHER, 405 Temple Street, Professor of Political Economy, Yale University, was interviewed on February 20, 1943 by Special Agent ROYCE B. THOMPSON of the New Haven Field Division, stated that his nephew, LEONARD BACON, a poet, residing at Peacedale, Rhode Island, might possibly be able to furnish some information concerning subject.</p>			
REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<i>RECEIVED</i> COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (Attention J. K. MUMFORD) 2 - Baltimore 2 - New York 2 - Providence		<i>61-4-2</i> 61-215-6	

61-4

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Will interview EDWARD BACON, 225 East 74th Street, to determine if he can identify subject's voice from a recorded transcription, can place him in Italy before or after the outbreak of war and any background data.

Inasmuch as the Bureau desires this case be given immediate and continuous investigative attention, it is requested that this lead be handled expeditiously.

100 Milk Street
Boston, Massachusetts
March 3, 1943

Mr. James J. Angleton
150 East 50th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith are the two photographs of Dr. Ezra Pound which you obligingly gave to Special Agent Johnson of this office.

Please be assured of my appreciation of your co-operation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

CARL E. HENNRICH
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

HJ:MKC

61-213 - 5

61-213-7

100-34099
SAC, Washington

June 12, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

EZRA POUND
TREASON

Enclosed for your office and the other offices receiving copies of this letter are photostatic copies of a memorandum dated June 6, 1945, from the Criminal Division of the Department requesting certain additional investigation of the captioned case.

From an examination of the Criminal Division's memorandum it is noted that the greater portion of the investigation requested will be conducted by your office although the investigation requested in the first paragraph on page five is to be handled by the Denver Office. The Boston Office should comply with the request set forth in the last paragraph on page five and the last paragraph on page six. The first two paragraphs on page six and the first paragraph on page seven contain requests that should be complied with by the New York Office.

Pound is being held at the present time by the American Army in Italy pending the completion of our investigation of his treasonous activities. The Department desires to return him to this country for trial in the near future. For this reason it is imperative that the investigation requested of your office and the other offices receiving copies of this letter be handled immediately.

Enclosure

CC: New York - Enclosure
Boston - Enclosure
Denver - Enclosure

61 213 9

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUN 14 1945

weh

DIRECTOR, FBI

6/16/45

SAC BOSTON

EZRA POUND

TREASON

Reference is made to your letter dated June 12, 1945 in the above matter which contained specific request from the Criminal Division of the Department in this Field Division.

Special Agent F. J. MC CARTHY, Jr., was advised by LAWRENCE L. WINSHIP, Managing Editor of the Boston Globe, that OTTO ZAUSMER is presently with the Office of War Information at London, England. His mail address is in care of OWI, APO 413, care of Postmaster, New York City.

The recordings of the speeches of the subject made by the Globe Listening Post, have been in the custody of OTTO ZAUSMER. With the assistance of CHARLES MERRILL, City Editor, and EVELINE DIENES, a search was made of ZAUSMER's effects at his home, 51 Mason Street, Brookline, which produced two records bearing captions indicating that they contained talks by EZRA POUND. One of these is dated October 2, 1941, the other September 19, 1942.

These recordings were played back, and the October 2, 1941 recording contains a fragmentary speech by EZRA POUND which is generally critical of Britain, Churchill, and Hore Belisha. This also contains ridicule of the Russian War effort, and is praiseful of the Germans. This record does not contain either the beginning or the ending of the broadcast.

The other recording was of a speech made September 19, 1942, and opens with "This is EZRA POUND speaking from Rome." In this speech the subject comments on the dishonesty of British Broadcasting Company, and the American Press, and states that while the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to control the money, Congress has been inadequate and has failed to do this; that the National Legislature has been corrupt since 1863; that the alternatives in America were Fascism or national money controlled by Communist administration; that honesty is the last thing the words "Roosevelt" and "Churchill" mean. He states that the Nazi and Fascist movement is of more interest to him than to the Italians and Germans. The end of this broadcast is not recorded.

Enclosed herewith please find two records which were made at the Boston Field Division from the original recordings. Each of these records contains a sound identification.

61-213-10

These records are being forwarded for the convenience of the Bureau and the Department.

Mr. WINSHIP has agreed that the original records may be used whenever the Department desires to have them. They were returned to Mr. Winship.

It is suggested that OTTO ZAUSNER be contacted through London sources of the Bureau in an effort to ascertain his desirability as a witness in this case. He should also be interviewed as to whether or not he has made any other recordings, and if so ascertain where they may be located.

10
FJM:GBH
61-213

(Records by registered mail)

Director, FBI

8/8/45

SAC, Boston

Dr. EZRA POUND
TREASON

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent J. WAYNE PARRISH at Washington, D. C., dated July 9, 1945 in which a lead was set forth for the Boston Field Division.

I am forwarding to the Baltimore Field Division a copy of my letter to you, dated June 16, 1945, which covers the item set out in this report.

This case will now be considered Referred Upon Completion to the Office of Origin.

FJMcC LEM

61-213

cc Baltimore w/incl

8/8/45
RUC
mp

Posted RUC
8/8/45
F.H.A.

61-213-12

The case for and against

Ezra Pound

A report on the poet's life . . .
together with samples of his work . . . ex-
cerpts from his broadcasts over the Rome
radio . . . and comments by noted writers.

Compiled and edited by Charles Norman

Copyright, 1945, by The Newspaper PM, Inc.

When Charles Norman enlisted in the Army in 1942, he was a member of the staff of Picture News and the author of a number of books of poetry, among them *Poems 1929*, *The Bright World* and *The Savage Century*. As an infantryman in Southern training camps, he won commendation for his anti-fascist lectures, and was sent to The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., from which he was graduated as a second lieutenant. He became chief of military training for the Northwest Service Command (which built the Alaska Highway). A new collection of his poetry, *A Soldier's Diary*, was published last year. Upon his recent discharge, he returned to Picture News.

ON JULY 26, 1943, Ezra Pound, American poet and expatriate, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in Washington as a traitor for broadcasting enemy propaganda over the Rome radio. Last Sunday he was flown back from Italy and placed in the District of Columbia jail to await trial.

The circumstances surrounding the case of Ezra Pound are unique in the history of the United States, which has had few traitors, and may be unique in the history of the world (although the case of the Italian poet Dante may be said to provide a parallel, for after his exile from Florence, Dante excoriated the Florentines and gave aid and comfort to the enemies of that city's ruling party).

There are those who believe that a man with the gifts of Pound should be held responsible for acts inimical to the welfare of his country, and if found guilty, punished as would any other

individual who was not an artist.

Against that view of Pound's predicament is posed another, particularly by artists, who say: a country goes to war to preserve its way of life and its culture. Ezra Pound's work is a part of American literature, a part of its culture. He will be read whether he is punished or not; perhaps he will be read even more if he is punished.

An attempt has been made here to present the two sides of Pound — Pound the poet and Pound the Axis propagandist. Involved in his case is the problem of the relationship between the artist and society. Pound cannot, perhaps, be understood without a knowledge of the misunderstandings between him and the country of his birth.

Also involved is an issue which may transcend Pound's case in importance. This issue is presented in the section dealing with the suppressed poems of Ezra Pound.

Pound's early life: he turns his back on the United States

Ezra Loomis Pound was born Oct. 30, 1885, in a pioneer shack in Hailey, Idaho. His father was a minor official of the government land office there. While the country's major push was still westward, Pound at 15 began the first of his migrations eastward. They were to take him physically halfway around the world and spiritually still further to a kinship with China's poets and teachers, whom he first revered and then translated.

He entered the University of Pennsylvania, where he read enormously and studied comparative literature; moved on to Hamilton College, still reading, still studying, and storing his mind with bright flashes of imagery and erudition; and returned to the University of Pennsylvania to teach. Once he went back briefly to the West, as a teacher in Wabash College, but was dismissed after four months. Of this dismissal Pound noted that "all accusations" (of being too European and unconventional) were "ultimately refuted save that of being 'the Latin Quarter type.'"

With this incident, academic circles were closed to him, and he turned his back on the United States. The accusation of being a "Latin Quarter type" shortly was justified. His brick-red beard, sharpened to a point that was half-professorial, half-mandarin; his Byronic collar, flowing hair and flowing cape, soon became familiar in the Bohemian quarters of Europe. He took with him the idea for a new poem:

The thought of what America would be
like
If the Classics had a wide circulation
Troubles my sleep. . . .

In London and Paris

At 23 he was in London. How well he was writing at this time may be seen in his volume of poems entitled *Personae*, published there in 1909, and containing some of his greatest work. Edward Thomas, English poet and critic, wrote of *Personae*: "The beauty of it is the beauty of passion, sincerity and intensity, not of beautiful words and images and suggestions." It took great discernment to see this so early; but it took greater vision to write as Pound did in the shadow of the Victorian era.

Of this volume there is told the following story. The publisher who received the manuscript invited Pound to his office,

praised the poems, intimated he was interested in bringing them out, but suggested that the author should defray part of the expenses. Pound heartily agreed and said he would give half his available funds. He placed a shilling on the publisher's desk.

From London, Pound went to Paris. In the years after the first World War he was a noted and glamorous figure to young Americans imbibing French wines and French culture in the chief cultural center of the western world. It was the bright era of James Joyce, Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway and Ezra Pound, all of them in Paris, all of them producing great and controversial works whose impress is still to be seen in contemporary writing. One night, Pound, the noted poet, was invited to dinner at the home of Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist and one of the great concert artists of our time. At the door, when he was leaving, Madame Landowska said:

"Mr. Pound, I hear you have written a book. Will you send it to me?"

"Madame," replied Pound, "I have written 20 books."

"Mr. Pound," said his hostess, "will you send them to me?" Mr. Pound graciously did.

His work

It was true; by the age of 40 he had written 20 books; today a bibliography of his work would fill a page. Beginning with *Personae*, there had followed a stream of volumes of poetry and prose—original compositions; translations from the French, the Chinese (one appears on p. 15), and finally a work still under way entitled *Cantos*, published in instalments, which Pound regards as his chief work, but which is not so regarded by many others. In the *Cantos* is to be found a composite of erudition, myriad quotations from half a dozen languages and literatures, a persistent anti-Semitism, and a running, episodic, sometimes futuristic treatise on economics, which is nevertheless often beautiful:

With usury has no man a good house
Made of stone, no paradise on his church
wall
With usury the stone cutter is kept from
his stone

The weaver is kept from his loom. . . .

Thus, year after year, since the appear-

ance of *Personae*, Pound has brought forth a body of literature without parallel in time, a mass of work which has inspired other writers and helped to shape their styles; and he did this without much encouragement from critics in the United States and on an income which few would have been content to struggle with.

He also found the time and energy to help other artists. He championed the American composer, George Antheil, in Paris, got him a concert hall, saw the performance of Antheil's *Ballet Mecanique* crowned with success despite organized rowdyism and fanatic opposition (no one who attended will ever forget the drama of the performance—the cries and catcalls, the opening of umbrellas against the rush of air from an airplane propeller on the stage, the efforts of Pound to cry down the opposition, and in the background, solemn and listening intently, the great figure of Joyce); and finally wrote a book, *Antheil and The Treatise on Harmony*, to find the composer a greater audience. He also wrote a book about a great but still obscure young sculptor, Gaudier Brzeska, killed in the first World War. Even in his anti-Semitism, Pound is not easy to characterize or pin down; witness his translations and praise of Heine, and his life-long efforts to find an audience and a publisher for the poet Louis Zukofsky, to whom Pound dedicated his *Culture*.

Helped our poetry renaissance

Throughout his long and controversial career, now gathering to a dramatic climax, he discovered or ballyhooed the work of men who have since become renowned, some of them crowned with the Nobel Prize for Literature, such as the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, and the Bengal poet, Rabindranath Tagore. And he brought to the budding poetry renaissance in the United States the impact and inspiration of his technique and ideas. This part of his story is best told by the late Harriet Monroe, founder and first editor of *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse*, which became the center of the poetic movement in the United States. In her autobiography, *A Poet's Life* (Macmillan, 1938, \$5), she wrote:

"The most dynamic and stimulating of our early correspondents was . . . the young American Ezra Pound, whose early small books, *Personae* and *Exultations*, I had read with delight. . . . Writing to him as to others in August, 1912, and inclosing as usual the circular [the prospectus of the magazine] I confessed my admiration of his poems, and asked with special emphasis his co-operation. I quote in full his answer, whose arrival made the first of September an exciting day. The reader should remember that the name of Ezra Pound was then largely unrecognized in his native country, and very little known anywhere. His letter spoke with a fresh voice, and promised inestimable values to the magazine. . . .

Pound, to Harriet Monroe

"I am interested, and your scheme, as far as I understand it, seems not only sound, but the only possible method. There is no other magazine in America which is not an insult to the serious artist and to the dignity of his art.

"But? Can you teach the American poet that poetry is an art, an art with a technique, with media—an art that must be in constant flux, a constant change of manner, if it is to live. Can you teach him that it is not a pentametric echo of the sociological dogma printed in last year's magazines? Maybe. Anyhow you have work before you.

"I may be myopic, but during my last tortured visit to America I found no writer and but one reviewer who had any worthy conception of poetry, The Art. However I need not bore you with jeremiads. . .

"*Quant a moi*: If you conceive verse as a living medium, on a par with paint, marble, and music, you may announce, if it's any good to you, that for the present such of my work as appears in America (barring my own books) will appear exclusively in your magazine. I think you might easily get all the serious artists to boycott the rest of the press entirely. I can't send you much at the moment, for

my *Arnaut Daniel* has gone to the publisher, and the proofs of *Ripostes* are on my desk, and I've been working for three months on a prose book. Even the *Ripostes* is scarcely more than a notice that my translations and experiments have not entirely interrupted my compositions. . .

"Are you for American poetry or for poetry? The latter is more important, but it is important that America should boost the former, provided it don't mean a blindness to the art. The glory of any nation is to produce art that can be exported without disgrace to its origin.

"I ask because if you do want poetry from other sources than America I may be able to be of use. I don't think it's any of the artist's business to see whether or no he circulates, but I was nevertheless tempted, on the verge of starting a quarterly, and it's a great relief to know that your paper may manage what I had, without financial strength, been about to attempt rather forlornly. . .

"I send you all that I have on my desk—an over-elaborate post-Browning "Imagiste" affair and a note on the Whistler exhibit. I count him our only great artist, and even this informal salute, drastic as it is, may not be out of place at the threshold of what I hope is an endeavor to carry into our American poetry the same sort of life and intensity which he infused into modern painting.

"Sincerely yours,

"Ezra Pound

"PS. Any agonizing that tends to hurry what I believe in the end to be inevitable,



POUND at 38 poses in the garden of his studio in Paris, Sept. 4, 1923.

our American Risorgimento, is dear to me. That awakening will make the Italian Renaissance look like a tempest in a teapot! The force we have, and the impulse, but the guiding sense, the discrimination in applying the force, we must wait and strive for.

"I sent Pound an enthusiastic answer, asking him to represent *Poetry* abroad as foreign correspondent, and to send us his poems and prose articles and such British contributions as he approved of. On September 21st he wrote accepting the unsalaried job:

"All right, you can put me down as 'foreign correspondent' or foreign editor if you like, and pay me whatever or whenever is convenient. If I were in the trade for the cash to be gotten from it, I should have quit some time ago. There is rather a fine saying of Browning's which is not so well known as it might be: 'Money! If I'd made matches with my hands I'd have made more out of it.'"

"He promised to send 'some of young Aldington's stuff' as soon as he could get permission, and offered to secure foreign exchanges, continuing:

"As touching Boston and New York--if their press is too much amused by Chicago's having a poetry magazine, you might send me some of the clippings and perhaps I can riposte on them from a less expected quarter. . . .

"A few days later I was still further elated. His third letter in September, 1912, said:

"I've just written to Yeats. It's rather hard to get anything out of him by mail and he won't be back in London until November. Still I've done what I can, and as it's the first favor or about the first that I've asked for three years I may get some-

thing--to set the tone."

"Also I'll try to get some of the poems of the very great Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore. They are going to be the sensation of the Winter. . . .

"With a fourth letter--of October 9th--Pound sent the poems by Richard Aldington. . . . Another October letter was very exciting and imperative. It began:

"This is *The Scoop*. Reserve space in the next number for Tagore. . . . He has sung Bengal into a nation, and his English version of his poems is very wonderful. Yeats is doing the introduction. . . .

"I could go on for many pages with Pound's early letters. They were a tonic and an inspiration, for at that time, as I firmly believe, he was the best critic living, at least in our specialty, and his acid touch on weak spots was as fearfully enlightening as a clinic. . . .

'Born to be a great teacher'

"Thus began the rather violent, but on the whole salutary, discipline under the lash of which the editor of the new magazine felt herself being rapidly educated, while all incrustations of habit and prejudice were ruthlessly swept away. Ezra Pound was born to be a great teacher. The American universities which, at this time of his developing strength, failed, one and all, to install him as the head of an English department, missed a dynamic influence which would have been felt wherever English writing is taught. It is not entirely his fault if he has become somewhat embittered and has spent upon trivial quarrels and temperamental exaggerations the energy which should have gone into important progressive work. The power which would have been stimulating has become explosive. . . .

The poet takes up economics and compares Mussolini with Jefferson

From Paris, Pound in the middle 20s went to Rapallo, Italy, where he lived in renowned seclusion, a poet and scholar out of touch with the world, hugging to his bosom medieval manuscripts and modern economic theories over which he cogitated. It was during the regime of Benito Mussolini. Writing to friends in England and the United States, he dated his letters fascist style.

His letters began to be disturbing to some of his friends and his books began to be disturbing to people who, whether or not they were his friends, were not the friends of fascism. There came out of Rapallo a little book, first published in England, entitled *Ezra Pound's ABC of Economics*. A reader might read it and put it down feeling that neither he nor Pound was quite clear about the subject; but no reader who read it to the end could put it down without realizing that Pound had hitched his star to Mussolini's wagon. A postscript to the book is signed E. P. Feb. 12, anno XI dell'era Fascista—that is, February 12, which is Lincoln's Birthday, in the 11th year of the fascist era, which was 1933).

He fell for a gag

Pound's economic theories stem from the social credit program of Maj. C. H. Douglas of Canada. In Pound, the Douglas idea is both simplified and complicated (reading Pound on economics, one sometimes has the feeling that he is learning more about art, culture and Pound than he is about economics). Said Pound in his *ABC*:

"There are four elements; and it is useless trying to function with three:

"1. The product.

"2. The want.

"3. The means of transport.

"4. AND the certificates of value, preferably legal tender and 'general,' in the sense that they should be good for wheat, iron, lumber, dress goods, or whatever the heart and stomach desire. . .

"The brains of the nation or group to be used in discerning WHAT work is most needful, what work is less necessary and what is desirable even though not strictly necessary."

Thus Pound on economics.

In the 13th year of the fascist era, Pound came forth with a book entitled *Jefferson and/or Mussolini*. It began: "The fundamental likenesses between these two men are probably greater than their differences." In justice to Pound, it should be recalled that there were many in the United States at that particular time who were ready to believe this. Pound was one of those who fell, alas, for the gag about the trains running on time.

Pound as a flatterer is something else again: "The man least likely, I mean the man in all Europe or in all America least likely, to be surprised at my opening proposition is Benito Mussolini himself." But it must have surprised a couple of other guys particularly when Pound went on to say "Jefferson was one genius and Mussolini is another." Even for a guest in another man's house, this was laying it on thick. But Pound laid it on even thicker: "I don't believe any estimate of Mussolini will be valid unless it starts from his passion for construction. Treat him as *artifex* [maker] and all the details fall into place. Take him as anything save the artist and you will get muddled with contradictions."

Pound also was becoming muddled. Even his most fervent admirers saw a disintegration in his thought-processes and style. Example: "The fascist revolution was FOR the preservation of certain liberties and FOR the maintenance of a certain level of culture, certain standards of living, it was NOT a refusal to come down to a level of riches or poverty, but a refusal to surrender certain immaterial prerogatives, a refusal to surrender a great slice of the cultural heritage." The final sentence in *Jefferson and/or Mussolini* is: "Towards which I assert again my own firm belief that the Duce will stand not with despots and lovers of power but with the lovers of

ORDER."

His book appeared in the year of the fascist invasion of Ethiopia and a year before the fascist invasion of Spain.

To the United States in 1939, on his

Continued on next page

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Pound continued

first visit in a quarter century to the land of his birth, Pound brought his enthusiasm for fascism, his theories on economics, and his anti-Semitism. He was not a welcome visitor; friends of a lifetime shut their doors on him in disgust; the most charitable view was that he was a sick man. At a party in Boston, a banker, who was one of the guests, listened to Pound's economic theories for a solid two hours, staring blankly at the wall; his opinion was never asked, he was being told. In response to a request for information from the editors of *Twentieth Century Authors, A Biographical Dictionary*, Pound wrote: "When a

writer merits mention in a work of reference his work is his autobiography, it is his first-person record." But instead of referring to his poems and other literary compositions, he submitted, as being more representative of him, a diatribe on economics, chiefly about "the great and dastardly betrayal of the American people and the American system, by the trick clause, and the Bank Act of February 25, 1863," which was probably news to most readers of *Twentieth Century Authors*. Pound returned to Rapallo, frustrated politically, as he had earlier been frustrated artistically.

How Pound, over the Rome radio, broadcast the Axis line to the U. S. A.

When war came, it was no surprise to anyone who knew him that he was lending his voice, his erudition, and his bitterness against the United States, to further Italy's war effort.

ANNOUNCER: *Rome Radio . . . following the tradition of Italian hospitality . . . has offered Dr. Ezra Pound the use of the microphone twice a week. It is understood that he will not be asked to say anything whatsoever that goes against his conscience, or anything incompatible with his duties as a citizen of the U. S. A.*

That was the introduction to Pound's broadcasts after the United States had entered the war (he had been broadcasting since January, 1941, ceased for a few weeks after Pearl Harbor, and resumed in January, 1942). Here are excerpts from some of his talks:

JAN. 29, 1942

The United States has been for months and illegally at war through what I consider to be the criminal acts of a President whose mental condition was not, so far as I could see, all that could or should be desired of a man in so responsible a position or office.

FEB. 3, 1942

You are at war for the duration of the Germans' pleasure. You are at war for the duration of Japan's pleasure. Nothing in the Western world, nothing in the whole of our occident can help you dodge that. Nothing can help you dodge it.

APR. 16, 1942

For the United States to be making war on Italy and on Europe is just plain damn nonsense, and every native born American of American stock

knows that it is plain downright damn nonsense. And for this state of things Franklin Roosevelt is more than any other one man responsible.

APR. 23, 1942

I ask whether the spirit of '76 is helped by a floodin' the lower ranks of the Navy with bridge-sweepin'; whether war is won by mercantilist ethics and, in any case, whether men like Knox and Stimson and Morgenthau can be expected to fill the heart of youth with martial ardor and the spirit of sacrifice.

MAY 10, 1942

The next peace will not be based on international lending. Get that for one. The next peace will not be based on international lending, and England certainly will have nothing whatever to say about what its terms are. Neither, I think, will simple-hearted Joe Stalin, not wholly trusted by the kinkery which is his master.

MAY 26, 1942

Every hour that you go on with this war is an hour lost to you and your children. And every sane act you commit is committed in homage to Mussolini and Hitler. Every reform, every lurch toward the just price, toward the control of a market is an act of homage to Mussolini and Hitler. They are your leaders however much you think you are conducted by Roosevelt or told by Churchill. You follow Mussolini and Hitler in every constructive act of your government.

MAY 31, 1942

The melting pot in America may have been a noble experiment, though I have much doubt it. At any rate it is lost.

JUNE 28, 1942

You are not going to win this war. None of our best minds ever thought you could win it. You have never had a chance in this war.

JULY 20, 1942

You ought not to be at war against Italy. You ought not to be giving or ever have given the slightest or most picaresque aid to any man or nation engaged in waging war against Italy. You are doing it for the sake of a false accountancy system.

Here is a longer sampling:

JULY 22, 1942

"Europe calling . . . Ezra Pound speaking!"

"I hear that my views are shared, most of them, by a large number of my compatriots, so it would seem, or maybe an increasing number of my compatriots. And there is a comforting thought on a warm day in a fine climate. I should hate to think that all America had gone haywire. I should like to feel that the American race in North America, in the North American continent, had some wish towards survival. That they wanted there to be a United States of tomorrow. . . .

"Well, you have been fed on lies, for 20 years you have been fed on lies, and I don't say maybe. And Mr. Squirmy and Mr. Shine are still feeding it to you right over the BBC radio, and every one of the Jew radios of Schenectady, New York and Boston—and Boston was once an American city; that was when it was about the size of Rapallo. . . .

"And how much liberty have you lost, anyhow. And as to the arsenal—are the arsenal of democracy or of judeocracy? And who rules your rulers? Where does public responsibility end and what races can mix in America without ruin of the American stock, the American brain? Who is organized? What say have you in the choice of your rulers? What control of their policy? And who does own most of your press and your radio? E. P. asking you . . ."

On May 4, 1943, while the Americans, the British and the French were driving close to the Axis strongholds of Tunis and Bizerte, in North Africa, Pound asked America:

What are you doing in the war at all? What are you doing in Africa? Who amongst you has the nerve or the sense to do something that would conduce to getting you out of it before you are mortgaged up to the neck and over it? Every day of war is a dead day as well as a death day. More death, more future servitude, less and less of American liberty of any variety. . . .

Pound's broadcasts occasioned a notable

statement by *Poetry*, the magazine Harriet Monroe had founded. Thirty years after the events related by Miss Monroe in her autobiography, quoted earlier in this account, the following editorial by Eunice Tietjens, a member of *Poetry's* advisory committee, appeared in the issue of April, 1942, under the heading, *The End of Ezra Pound*:

"The time has come to put a formal end to the countenancing of Ezra Pound. For a number of years, at the beginning of the magazine, he was associated with *Poetry*, and the association was valuable on both sides. Then he quarreled with us, as he has quarreled with everyone, yet continued to use the magazine as an outlet for the publication of his *Cantos* and other poems. Now, so far as we and the rest of the English-speaking world of letters are concerned, he has effectively written *finis* to his long career as inspired *enfant terrible*.

"*Poetry* has forgiven Ezra much throughout the latter years because of his great service to the art of poetry in English during his youth. . . .

"But now the situation has changed; now we are at war; now the broadcasts, which he continues to make, have become the deliberate attempts to undermine the country of his birth through enemy propaganda.

"That it should be one of the poets who is thus playing Lord Haw-Haw, no matter how ineffectually, seems to cast a slur on the whole craft. In the name of American poetry, and of all who practise the



E. CUMMINGS, poet and painter, one of the modern "greats," states the case for the artist as individual (see p. 16).



KARL SHAPIRO, author of *V-Letter and Other Poems*, belongs to the new generation of writers now emerging.



WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS, poet and MD of Rutherford, N. J., is another of the modern "greats" with a following.



F. O. MATTHIESSEN is a professor of literature and history at Harvard University and a distinguished critic, author

art, ~~let us hope~~ that this is the end of Ezra Pound."

Unfortunately—or fortune—poets do not "end."

After his arrest, May 5, 1945, near Genoa, Italy, Pound declared: "If I ain't worth more alive than dead, that's that. If a man isn't willing to take some risk

for his opinions, either his opinions are no good or he's no good."

Such is the man over whom literary squabbles have raged for 40 years, and who, with the alarms of those battles sounding far off and long ago, must turn, at 60, to face the judgment of a jury of his fellow citizens.

Poets and critics size up Pound as an artist and as a man

As the time of Pound's trial drew near, I asked a number of distinguished poets and critics to state their views of his work and influence. In fairness to all, it should be pointed out that the excerpts from Pound's broadcasts were not seen by them. Their statements follow:

E. E. CUMMINGS:

Re Ezra Pound—poetry happens to be an art; and artists happen to be human beings.

An artist doesn't live in some geographical abstraction, superimposed on a part of this beautiful earth by the nonimagination of unanimals and dedicated to the proposition that massacre is a social virtue because murder is an individual vice. Nor does an artist live in some soi-disant world, nor does he live in some so-called universe, nor does he live in any number of "worlds" or in any number of "universes". As for a few trifling delusions like the "past" and "present" and "future" of quote mankind unquote, they may be big enough for a couple of billion supermechanized submorons but they're much too small for one human being.

Every artist's strictly illimitable country is himself.

An artist who plays that country false has committed suicide; and even a good lawyer cannot kill the dead. But a human being who's true to himself—whoever high self may be—is immortal; and all the atomic bombs of all the antiartists in space-time will never civilize immortality.

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS:

I can't write about Ezra Pound with any sort of composure. When I think of the callousness of some of his letters during the last six or seven years, blithe comments touching "fresh meat on the Russian steppes" or the war in Spain as being of "no more importance than the draining of some mosquito swamp in deepest Africa," "Hitler the martyr" and all that—I want to forget that I ever knew him. His vicious anti-Semitism and much else have lowered him in my mind further than I ever thought it possible to lower a man whom I had once admired. But that isn't the whole story.

Somehow I am compelled to think of something I once heard about a poet during one of the former Mexican revolutions. This poor guy seeing the men with guns coming down the street shinnied up a telegraph pole—the only thing available to give him any elevation under the circumstances. The troops seeing him up there thought they might as well take a few pot-shots at him—anyhow it was in enemy territory. But at this the man up the pole started to yell, I'm a poet! I'm a poet! The soldiers at that invited him down, gave him a drink and told him to go ahead, poetize for them. Maybe they shot him later, I don't know.

Ezra Pound is one of the most competent poets in our language, possessed of the most acute ear for metrical sequences, to the point of genius, that we have ever known. He is also, it must be confessed, the biggest damn fool and faker in the business. You can't allow yourself to be too serious about a person like that—and yet he is important. He knows all this and plays on it to perfection.

One trait I always held against Ezra was that he'd never let you in on his personal affairs; close as we were for several years when we were kids I just never knew what he was up to. It didn't make

really much difference but in a pal it was annoying. Never explain anything, was his motto. He carried it off well—and in his verse too, later. The purpose was to impress everyone about him with the profundity of his wit. I know the answer now and it isn't flattering. Generally speaking his head was fairly empty.

But he always felt himself superior to anyone about him and could never brook a rival. We accepted it on terms he little suspected, for after all he was and remains, in his field, a genius. He just lived on a different plane from anyone else in the world, a higher plane! This gave him certain prerogatives. If he was your friend you just forgave it. We were friends.

I think this trait or whatever it was bred from—if not plain emptiness—is the thing that finally ruined Ezra. He tried to make good and with better financial success in his field might have done so—but he was a lazy animal in many ways and couldn't be bothered. We had a chronic argument going on between us, he and I, over which was the proper objective for the writer, caviar or bread. I held out for bread, Ezra for caviar. This went on for years. Finally one day I got a letter from London saying: bread.

But that was only a momentary aberration on the part of the grrrrreatest poet drawing breath in our day! And he meant it. That was no joke to Ezra. He really lived the poet as few of us had the nerve to live that exalted reality in our time. As always the details are best omitted, they were part of the aura.

I remember one April morning in 1909 we were passing a church in Kensington with a high, spiked iron fence around it. On the pavement before us lay a very much battered bunch of violets dropped no doubt by some child or lady. After a step or two Ezra stopped, turned back, raised the flowers with a great show from their neglected position and placed them honored upon the iron fence-rail. We moved on, he insisting on being one step in advance of me as always. I remember my brother once in the same situation turned and walked off in the opposite direction.



SAXE COMMINS, Random House editor, drops Pound as "fascist."



LOUIS UNTERMAYER, indefatigable compiler and editor of the standard *Modern American, Modern British Poetry*.



CONRAD AIKEN, poet and editor, protested against suppression of Pound's work, states the case for Pound's poetry.

I say these things because I can't help saying them—they are part of the Ezra Pound I knew, the man now in jeopardy of his life as a traitor to his country. Ezra always insisted, in the loudest terms, on the brilliance and profundity of his mind. He doesn't have a great mind and never did but that doesn't make him any the less a good poet. His stupidities coupled with his overweening self esteem have brought him down—but to try to make a criminal of him because of that is to lay ourselves open to the accusation of being moved by an even greater stupidity than that which we are facing. There are plenty of others in his category with far less talent.

Ezra is one of a well recognized group of Americans who can't take the democratic virus and stand up under it, very distinguished men most of them who owe their distinction largely to their American origins. They owe their over-all genius, of course, to their immediate ancestry, such traits as appeared both in William and Henry James. But with the artist, and we are speaking of the artist in this case, the distinguishing genius of their characteristics has been definitely the environment, the fact of their new world origins—from which they recoil.

Pitiful to relate, revulsion is invariably the type of reaction they suffer. No use to go into further detail, it is common. And I for one believe that had they remained nearer to the fountain which gave them originally their power to go abroad and develop their traits, even in the case of Henry James—their work would have assumed more impressive proportions. Nor am I blind to the knowledge that had they not gone abroad, they might have perished. I think they could have lived it out here somehow without perishing. Let that pass.

Ezra Pound the consummate poet taken as any sort of menace to America when compared with some of the vicious minds at large among us in, say for instance the newspaper game, as well as other rackets which have the public ear, is sheer childishness. He just isn't dangerous, they are. I am not trying to minimize his crime, it was a crime and he committed it willfully. But under the circumstances and knowing what goes on "in committee" and elsewhere in our magnificently destined country—I don't think we should be too hard on him. I have thought, in spite of his infantile mental pattern, and still think—knowing what goes on about me every day as reported in the drivel of the press—that as a poet Ezra had some sort of right to speak his mind, such as it had become, as he did.

I have to qualify the above paragraph, however, by saying that I never heard a word that Ezra Pound broadcast during the war from Italy. The only thing I know directly about his broadcasts is a single sentence, referring to myself, which one of the tellers in our bank told my wife

one morning more than a year ago. From the quality of that I judge of the rest, dull stuff.

When they lock the man up with Jan and John and Henry and Mary and Dolor's and Grace—I hope they will give him access to books, with paper enough, for him to go on making translations for us from the classics such as we have never seen except at his hands in our language.

It would be the greatest miscarriage of justice, human justice, to shoot him.

KARL SHAPIRO:

The Pound affair is neither very serious nor very important. If there is any principle involved, I should like to know what it is. Pound thought fascism superior to democracy; he claims to have read a lot of history but managed to back the wrong cause in the war. As a U. S. citizen he committed the crime of not reversing his beliefs after Mussolini came to blows with Jefferson. I hope there are poets on the jury when Pound comes to trial; otherwise it is hopeless to imagine that Pound's occupation will have any bearing on the case.

If Pound were to be tried for his poetry he would come off very well indeed. The greatest poets of the age, from James Joyce down, have acknowledged indebtedness to him. In early 20th century poetry he will always stand as the strongest influence, despite the fact that he is a far better poetry teacher than poet.

F. O. MATTHIESSEN:

In considering the case of Ezra Pound, one must never forget his important role in the poetic renaissance of 30 years ago. That importance may finally have consisted more in his critical stimulus and investigation than in his own work, although he was hailed as a master craftsman by no less than both Yeats and Eliot. In this country, Harriet Monroe, the editor of *Poetry*, declared that "it was due more to Ezra Pound than to any other person that the revolution was on." And when that revolution was still new, Carl Sandburg added: "He has done most of living men to incite new impulses in poetry."

But Pound cannot be considered as a poet withdrawn from the world, like Emily Dickinson or Rilke, for instance. From the familiar position of the Bohemian artist who felt it his duty to thumb his nose at the bourgeois, he advanced at the time of the depression to an active concern with economics and politics. He did not want to be regarded as an irresponsible, although his political tracts, such as *Jefferson and/or Mussolini*, were a fantastic mixture of social credit and a literary man's admiration for the efficiency of the new Italian state.

He believed the control of money to be the central issue for any society, and he wanted his views to prevail. Throughout the 1930s he continued to bombard some

members of the U. S. Congress with quotations on the monetary question from Jefferson, John Adams and others, whom he thought to have anticipated social credit. He declared more than once that Van Buren's stand on the Bank had made him one of the greatest men in our history.

The few people who read his economic tracts must have regarded him as a crackpot, and he certainly had no influence. Nor do I believe that his radio broadcasts before and after our entry into the war, vicious as they were in their anti-Semitism, could have had any ponderable force as propaganda. Pound's way of conjuring up the international Jewish bankers as a scape-goat was far too odd and literary.

Nevertheless, he took his stand on such doctrines. If art is one of the most valuable products of a civilization, then the poet must be judged for the humanity of his thought as well as for his form. And if you believe in the artist's responsibility for his views, I don't see how you can explain Pound's away. But he is a tragic instance of the consequence resulting from the gulf between poet and audience, which has been so symptomatic of recent social disequilibrium. Living for so many years as an isolated expatriate in Rapallo, Pound was so cut off from any normal contacts with society that when he began to develop a political and social theory it could only be eccentric. As an eccentric he must now be judged.

LOUIS UNTERMEYER:

I think there is no doubt that Pound was both an important poet and an im-

portant influence—but I would stress the word *was*. I do not believe that he should be shot. I would favor merely life imprisonment in a cell surrounded by books—all of them copies of the works of Edgar A. Guest.

CONRAD AIKEN:

I am glad you are doing a piece on Pound. For his tragic predicament he has of course only himself to blame, and like anyone else in the same situation he must alone take the consequences. That he knew this he made quite apparent on his arrest, when he remarked that if a man values his beliefs he values them enough to die for them, and if they are worth having at all they are worth the speaking out. In my own opinion Pound is less traitor than fool: his political infatuations or obsessions led him by insensible degrees across international borders; the internationalism that always marked his poetry began increasingly to stamp his political thinking; and now he finds himself under charge of treason for having, according to his own queer lights, betrayed a particular society of men for man in the abstract.

But whatever the United States government decides to be justice in his case as traitor, I think we must all see to it that justice should be done to him also as poet. He was a poet, perhaps a great one, long before he became a fascist; he is still that poet, and one of the great creative influences of our time, and we must not permit these facts, nor his work, to be forgotten. It is for this reason that recently,

the editors of Random House refused to print Pound's poems in an anthology, or, to be more exact in a new edition of that anthology, I was moved to protest. It seemed to me that a burning of the books was a kind of intellectual and moral suicide which we might more wisely leave to our enemies.

Pound is dropped from an anthology

I called Saxe Commins, editor of Random House, and asked him for a statement on his firm's position in this matter. Commins said:

"Random House is not going to publish any fascist. As a matter of fact, we don't think that Ezra Pound is good enough, or important enough, to include. If we thought he was, we might have carried him anyway. We just don't think he is."

Commins said that in place of Pound's poems the new book would carry a note, and he promised to send me a copy of it "if I can find it." Two days later I received the following letter from him:

"I am sending you herewith a copy of the note which will appear on Page 788 of our forthcoming Modern Library Giant volume, *An Anthology of Famous English and American Poetry*, edited by William Rose Benet and Conrad Aiken."

The note reads:

At this point Conrad Aiken included in the Modern Library edition of his anthology, on which the present

text is based, the following poems by Ezra Pound: *Envoi* (1919), *The Tree*, *The Tomb at Akk Caar*, *Portrait d'une Femme*, *Apparuit*, *A Virginal*, *The Return*, *The River Merchant's Wife*, *The Flame*, *Dance Figure*, *Lament of the Frontier Guard*, and *Taking Leave of a Friend*. When the publishers insisted on omitting these poems from the present edition, he consented upon one condition: that it be clearly stated in print that his wishes were overruled by the publishers, who flatly refused at this time to include a single line by Ezra Pound. This is a statement that the publishers are not only willing but delighted to print.

END m17



Ezra Pound is brought home The poet who left the U. S. A. in 1908 to live in Europe as he arrived in Washington Sunday in custody of a U. S. marshal. Pound is to go on trial for treason as a result of his broadcasts for the Axis. (See story, pp. 12-17.)

CONF 4 STATIONS NY 20 BS 4 NK 3 WFO 1 FROM WASH 27 7-59 PM

SAC-S URGENT

DOCTOR EZRA POUND, TREASON. REBULET DECEMBER TWELVE LAST, DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED DISCONTINUANCE OF INVESTIGATION PENDING FURTHER COURT ACTION AS TO POUND-S SANITY. YOU WILL BE ADVISED IF INVESTIGATION DESIRED AT LATER DATE.

HOOVER

CORRECTION-----SECOND LINE WORD FIVE SHD BE "INVESTIGATION"

END

NY KL W R 20 NY

NK VA R 3 NK

BS ZINWA R 4 BS

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*12/28/45
Letter of Dec 12/45 first
seen by undersigned
12/28/45. RHC
mju*

61-213-16

DEC 27 1945

2ju

November 30, 1942

MEMORANDUM

RE: DR. EZRA POUND
TREASON

Dr. Ezra Pound was born in Halley, Idaho, on October 30, 1885. He has been residing outside of the United States continuously since 1911. From 1911 to 1920 he lived in England; from 1920 to 1924 in France; and from 1924 to date in Italy, principally at Rapallo, Italy.

According to information furnished the Department of State by the American Consul General at Genoa, Italy, on June 4, 1941, Dr. Pound for a number of years was known to have had very pro-Fascist leanings and to have spoken over the Italian radio system from time to time against the policies of the United States. On several occasions when he appeared at the Consulate General he made undignified remarks concerning the United States Government and when he entered and left the Consular Offices he gave the Fascist salute. The American Consul General also reported at that time that Dr. Pound has been giving a series of talks over the short-wave Italian radio stations intended to be heard in the United States. In these talks he has spoken in such a manner of the Government's foreign policy as to bring great discredit to the United States. In one of his broadcasts in June, 1941, Dr. Pound slanderously attacked the wife of the president.

The British "Who's Who" indicates that Ezra Pound received his Ph.D. degree from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, and his M.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1914, he married Dorothy Shakespeare, poet and composer. He has been a prolific writer and has contributed to the following periodicals: Rassegna Menetaria, Criterion, Action, British Union Quarterly, and Townsman. He has authored seventeen books of poems, two operas, eighteen prose treatises and eleven translations. These include "Japanese No Dances", "Chinese Drama", "Jefferson and/or Mussolini" (1935), and "Guide to Kultur" (1938). His residence in 1942 was given as via Marcella 12/5, Rapallo, Italy, and his son's name was furnished as Omar Shakespeare Pound.

It is reported that in February, 1940, Pound began airing his alien views and contempt for the United States over the Rome radio.

On July 12, 1941, the Department of State, Washington, D. C., instructed the American Embassy in Rome, Italy, to limit the issuance of a passport to Pound for the return to the United States only. Some publicity allegedly appeared in the American press indicating that Pound had expressed his desire to return to the United States in order to collect American and British royalties on his publications.

61-2381-1

Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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At the present time Pound is also allegedly editing a magazine entitled "Exile", presumably in Rome, Italy.

It was also reported by the Department of State that Pound, after the outbreak of the war, had been blasting the usual propaganda over the Italian radio.

Pound refused to return home at the time the American Embassy, Consular officials and their staffs were repatriated and is reported to still be residing in Italy.

In a letter addressed to the Attorney General by Siegfried Wagener of the Chicago Times Listening Post, Allenspark, Colorado, dated July 1, 1941, Mr. Wagener informed that subject Pound is employed by the Italian Government broadcasting subversive propaganda. It is suggested that Mr. Wagener be interviewed for complete details in this regard.

Broadcasts

The Federal Communications Commission has informed the Bureau that it has monitored the following broadcasts made by subject Pound from Rome, Italy. These broadcasts were received by the Federal Communications Commission Monitoring Station "Shinda", located at Silver Hill, Prince Georges County, Maryland, the intercepts of which have already been made available to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice.

December 7, 1941	March 28, 1942	April 30, 1942	May 26, 1942
January 29, 1942	March 29, 1942	May 2, 1942	May 28, 1942
February 3, 1942	March 30, 1942	May 3, 1942	May 31, 1942
February 10, 1942	March 31, 1942	May 4, 1942	June 1, 1942
February 12, 1942	April 6, 1942	May 5, 1942	June 4, 1942
February 17, 1942	April 7, 1942	May 9, 1942	June 5, 1942
February 26, 1942	April 9, 1942	May 10, 1942	June 8, 1942
March 2, 1942	April 11, 1942	May 11, 1942	June 16, 1942
March 6, 1942	April 12, 1942	May 12, 1942	June 19, 1942
March 8, 1942	April 13, 1942	May 14, 1942	June 25, 1942
March 15, 1942	April 16, 1942	May 16, 1942	June 28, 1942
March 15, 1942	April 18, 1942	May 17, 1942	July 2, 1942
March 19, 1942	April 19, 1942	May 18, 1942	July 3, 1942
March 22, 1942	April 20, 1942	May 19, 1942	July 6, 1942
March 23, 1942	April 21, 1942	May 21, 1942	July 7, 1942
March 24, 1942	April 26, 1942	May 23, 1942	July 10, 1942
March 26, 1942	April 27, 1942	May 24, 1942	July 12, 1942
February 19, 1942	April 28, 1942	May 25, 1942	July 13, 1942
	July 14, 1942	July 19, 1942	July 21, 1942
	July 17, 1942	July 20, 1942	July 26, 1942

Proposed Grand Jury Action - Additional Investigation Requested by Department.

The information available in the Bureau files regarding subject Pound, as well as copies of the transcript of subject's broadcasts, have been made available to the Criminal Division of the Department suggesting that subject Pound be indicted under the Treason Statutes (Sec. 1, 2, Title 18, U. S. Code) in that he adhered to the enemy, giving them aid and comfort. The Department, in its reply, now informs that the President and the Office of War Information are interested in this case as well as related cases concerning American citizens acting as propagandists for enemy countries, and that the matter is being seriously considered for Grand Jury action. However, prior to instituting such action, the Department requests that the following additional investigation be conducted;

- 1.) A complete review be made of the State Department records for all available data regarding subject Pound and secure copies of travel documents and expired passports possessed by subject. Also ascertain the name of the State Department official who can introduce these records and testify to the fact that subject is considered an American citizen and would be issued an American passport upon application for return to this country only.
- 2.) Verify the birth or naturalization of subject and the identify and position of the individual who can introduce the pertinent records as evidence.
- 3.) Ascertain the identities of persons who can place subject in Berlin, Germany, either before or subsequent to the war. In this regard, the State Department has informed the Bureau that the following correspondents, former Berlin broadcasters, and other individuals, would be able to testify to some of the desired facts;
 - a. Louis Lochner, NYC, former head of the Berlin Bureau of the AP.
 - b. Alvin Steinkopf, NYC, former AP correspondent in Vienna.
 - c. Miss Sigrid Schults, Chicago, Ill., former European representative of the Chicago Tribune.
 - d. Frederick Oechsner, NYC, former head of the European Bureau of the UP.
 - e. Glenn Stadler, NYC, former UP correspondent in Berlin
 - f. Pat Genger, NYC, former UP correspondent in Berlin, now reported to be a reporter with the U. S. Fleet.
 - g. William Shirer, NYC, now syndicating a news column.
 - h. Howard K. Smith, NYC, author of the current best seller "Last Train from Berlin."
 - i. John Paul Dickson, Baltimore, Maryland, former Berlin broadcaster for the Mutual Broadcasting System, understood to have recently enlisted with the U. S. Marines.

- j. Hugo Speck, former Berlin correspondent for the INS and now understood to be with the INS in Washington, D. C. The State Department believes Speck will in all probability be unwilling to talk as his activities at Bad Nauheim were the subject of a great deal of speculation.
 - k. Cyrus Follmer, former Vice Consul at Berlin, now assigned to the Division of Commercial Affairs of the Department of State, has heard broadcasts of American Citizens while in Berlin.
 - l. E. Tomlin Bailey, former Third Secretary of the Embassy in Berlin, now assigned to the Special Division of the Department of State, has knowledge of some of the Berlin broadcasters.
 - m. Philip N. Tucker, former clerk at the Embassy in Berlin and presently employed in the Central European Branch of the Military Intelligence Section of the War Department.
(phone, branch 2505)
 - n. R. Borden Reams, formerly Charge d'Affaires at Copenhagen, presently assigned to the Division of European Affairs of the Department of State.
 - o. Lloyd D. Yates, formerly Second Secretary of the Embassy at Berlin, presently assigned to the Division of Foreign Activity Correlation of the Department of State.
 - p. Carl Birkeland, formerly Vice Consul at Berlin and presently assigned to the Department of State.
 - q. Colonel Harvey Smith, Lt. Col. John Lovell, and Miss Natalie Tirrell, all of the Central European Branch of the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department.
 - r. The following former employees of the Passport Section of the Berlin Embassy;
 - Casimir Zawadski, now American Vice Consul at Belfast
 - Stephen B. Vaughn, now American Vice Consul at Montreal
 - Miss Agnes Schneider, now clerk at the American Embassy at London
 - s. P. Laukhuff, formerly Third Secretary of the American Embassy at Berlin and presently assigned to the Foreign Service Division of the Department of State.
- 4.) The identities of persons who can identify subject's voice from the recording of a radio broadcast. In addition to the above, it is believed that relatives and friends should be contacted for any assistance they may be able to furnish.
- 5.) All possible background of subject should be developed, reflecting subject's activities, and sympathies in the U.S. prior to travel abroad and those activities engaged in by subject since residing in Europe.

- 6.) It is considered desirable to secure one or more authorities to testify to the fact that all propaganda in Germany is handled through the Ministry of Propaganda and Enlightenment, headed by Herr Paul Joseph Goebbels, and that it would be extremely unlikely for an individual to regularly broadcast propaganda to the U. S. and not be an employee of this Ministry. Dr. Robert H. W. Lemper, Philadelphia, Pa., was suggested as a possibility.
- 7.) Technical testimony by a representative of the F.C.C. on the following points:
 - a. The fact that broadcasts are specifically banned to the U.S. and the nature of the equipment used for this purpose.
 - b. Charts showing directional findings prepared presumably by the FCC, placing the stations over which subject broadcast in Axis occupied country.
 - c. If the broadcasting station is identified by call letters, testimony as to the location of this particular station.
 - d. Testimony that the wave length on which the broadcasts were made is one which is capable of reception on the average short wave radio sold for public use in the U.S.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

Washington Field Office

At Washington, D. C.

Will make a complete review of the State Department records regarding subject Pound in line with lead #1 suggested by the Department and set forth on page 3 of this memorandum.

Will also contact and interview the individuals set forth on page 4 in line with lead #3 (j through q,s) suggested by the Department to definitely place subject Pound in Berlin, Germany, either before or subsequent to the war. These individuals should also be questioned as to the identities of other persons who can identify subject's voice from the recording of a radio broadcast and also for any background information they may be able to furnish regarding subject as suggested by the Department in leads #4 and 5 contained on page 4 of this memorandum.

Will also ascertain the identity of a technical representative of the F.C.C. who can testify to the points mentioned in lead #7 suggested by the Department and set forth on page 5 of this memorandum.

New York City Field Office

At New York City, New York

Will locate and interview the individuals set forth on page 3 of this memorandum to ascertain whether they can place subject Pound in Berlin, Germany, either before or subsequent to the war in line with lead #3 (a,b,d through h) as suggested by the Department. They should also be questioned as to the identities of other persons who can identify subject's voice from the recording of a radio broadcast and also for any background information they may be able to furnish regarding subject as suggested by the Department in leads #4 and 5 contained on page 4 of this memorandum.

Chicago Field Office

At Chicago, Illinois

Will locate Miss Sigrid Schmitz, former European representative of the Chicago Tribune, regarding the identities of persons who can place subject in Berlin, Germany, either before or after the commencement of war and whether she can testify to this fact as set forth on page 3 and in line with lead #3 (c) suggested by the Department. She should also be questioned as to the identities of other persons who can identify subject's voice over a radio broadcast and also for any background information she may be able to furnish regarding subject as suggested by the Department in leads #4 and 5 contained on page 4 of this memorandum.

Philadelphia Field Office

At Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Will interview Dr. Robert M. W. Kemper in line with lead #6 suggested by the Department and set forth on page 5 of this memorandum.

Denver Field Office

At Allenspark, Colorado

Will interview Mr. Siegfried Wagner of The Times Listening Post regarding subject's broadcasting activities and also in line with leads #4 and 5 suggested by the Department and contained on page 4 of this memorandum.

Butte Field Office

At Hailey, Idaho

Will verify subject's birth at Hailey, Idaho on October 30, 1885, in line with lead #2 suggested by the Department and set forth on page 3 of this memorandum.

Baltimore Field Office

At Baltimore, Maryland

Will locate and interview John Paul Dickson regarding the broadcast made by subject Pound in line with lead #3 (1) suggested by the Department as set forth on page 3 of this memorandum.

Item No.

Date Rec'd

- 1 - Original and duplicate of Affidavit of J. J. McFadden
dated Dec. 9, 1942.

12/14/42

TO Mr. C. C. C. C. C.

12-24-42

61-230-10

Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT OF JUSTICE	
DEC 15 1942	
BUTTE, MONTANA	
ROUTED TO:	FILE <i>[initials]</i>

100-24098

Date:

November 30, 1942

To:

SAS, Baltimore

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject:

DR. HERR FOUNG
TREASON

There are attached hereto copies of a memorandum dated November 30, 1942, which contains a summary of information in the Bureau files regarding subject Dr. Herr Fount, an American citizen who since December 9, 1941, has broadcasted anti-American propaganda to the United States over the Italian propaganda short-wave radio from Rome, Italy. A majority of subject's broadcasts since that date have been monitored by the Federal Communications Commission Monitoring Station, "Shinda," located at Silver Hill, Prince Georges County, Maryland. Transcriptions have been made of these broadcasts and in some instances recordings.

The Department has been furnished copies of these transcriptions and now requests that additional investigation be conducted as expeditiously as possible inasmuch as the matter is being considered for grand jury action. The Department also informs that venue will lie in the district where the broadcasts were received, which in this case is Silver Hill, Maryland, and therefore your office is being made the office of origin.

It is suggested that the offices receiving copies of this letter with enclosure, listed at the bottom of this letter and preceded by an asterisk, cover the undeveloped leads set forth in the attached memorandum in conjunction with the undeveloped leads set forth in the following related cases, which are being forwarded under separate cover:

* JAMES ANDERSON, was.
TREASON

* ROBERT HENRY HUNT, was.
TREASON

* DOUGLAS CHANDLER, was.
TREASON

* EDWARD LEO DELANEY, was
TREASON

* CONSTANCE ORRILL, was
TREASON

* ERIC W. K. [unclear]
TREASON

61-2302

RECEIVED	U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
DEC 1 1942	
BUTTE, MONTANA	
W. H. [unclear]	ASW

The Denver Office will interview Mr. Siegfried Wagner in connection with this case and also the above mentioned cases preceded by an asterisk.

It is desired that the information developed be set forth in detailed report form in each case, even though it amounts to repetition, for the purpose of facilitating proper supervision of these cases at the Seat of Government.

These cases are considered as being of paramount importance particularly in view of the interest of the President, the Office of War Information and the Department, and should be given immediate and continuous investigative attention until all leads are exhausted.

It is imperative that these instructions be strictly adhered to.

Enclosure

- cc - * Washington, D. C.
* New York City
* Chicago
* Philadelphia
Denver
Butte ✓

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Date: December 3, 1942
To: SAC, New York City

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: **FRIS W. KALIVRACH, wa**
THREAT
GUSTAVE BREXEL, was
THREAT
JANE ANDERSON, was
THREAT
ROBERT CRANFORD, wa.
THREAT
DR. EZRA BROWN
THREAT
EDWARD LEO HAZAREY, was.
THREAT
ARTHUR ELLIOT BENT, was
THREAT

With further reference to Bureau letters dated November 30, 1942, in the above captioned cases, the Bureau is in receipt of a communication from the Department suggesting that Dorothy Thomson, noted columnist, and William L. White, apparently a columnist or radio commentator, also be interviewed in line with the undeveloped leads set forth for your office in these cases.

With reference to the matter entitled "Constance Brexal, with aliases; Treason," the Department requests that a certified copy of the naturalization certificate of her father be obtained and all facts necessary to determine whether she is entitled to derivative citizenship. The Boston and Philadelphia Offices should be governed accordingly in this regard.

The Department also requests that in those cases where the subject was born in the United States, a certified copy of the birth certificate be obtained, together with other evidence of the date and place of his or her birth. It is requested that the offices having undeveloped leads to establish the birth of any of the subjects in the above entitled cases be governed accordingly.

Baltimore
Philadelphia
Boston
Butte
Des Moines

Springfield
Atlanta
Cleveland
Chicago

Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
61-230-3 DEC - 6 1942	
BUTTE, MONTANA	
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12-7-42

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DR. EZRA POUND, TREASON. IMPERATIVE THAT INSTANT CASE BE ASSIGNED
FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND REPORT SUBMITTED IN TEN DAYS. TO
FACILIAXXXX FACILITATE EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING, REPORTS SHOULD BE
TRANSMITTED TO BUREAU MARKED ATTENTION MR. J. K. MUMFORD.

HOOVER

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PLS HOLD AFFER I ACK
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61-230-4

Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
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BUTTE, MONTANA
December 11, 1942

MEMORANDUM

61-230

RE: DR. EZRA POUND;
ET AL; TREASON.

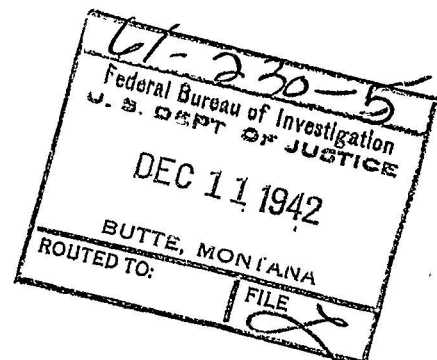
Under date of December 9, Special Agent ARTHUR S. WEBB telephonically advised that he had been unable to locate any birth record for the above Subject at Hailey, Idaho. He stated he found an old newspaper clipping from the "Woodriver Daily News--Miner" carrying a news item to the effect that a son was born on October 30, 1885, to HOMER L. POUND.

Agent WEBB further advised that he received information that the only possibility of a record covering the birth of this Subject might be in the Catholic Church in Boise, Idaho. He advised that Father ROWE, 418 Idaho Street, Boise, would be the proper person to contact in order to obtain these records, if any are in existence.

The above was telephonically furnished to Special Agent JAMES A. HUNT on December 10, and he was instructed to handle immediately, obtaining, if possible, a photograph or certified copy of any records.

KENNETH LOGAN
Special Agent in Charge

KL:BH



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

Datto FILE NO. **61-250**

REPORT MADE AT BUTTE, MONTANA	DATE WHEN MADE 12/24/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/9, 10, 11, 12/42	REPORT MADE BY ARTHUR J. WEND IAF
TITLE DR. EZRA POUND			CHARACTER OF CASE TREASON

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation at Malley, Idaho, reflects that beyond any reasonable doubt the Subject was born in that community on October 20, 1885; however, no authentic records could be located to substantiate this. No records of vital statistics kept by city, county or state in Idaho prior to 1907. Subject's father resided in Malley, Idaho, from 1883 to 1887, taking the Subject with him when he departed. Subject has not returned to Malley since that time and is not known in that community. Records at Catholic Church, Boise, Idaho, searched with negative results.

- RUC -

Reference:

Bureau letter of November 30, 1942, (100-34089)
Bureau letter of December 3, 1942.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Baltimore 2 - <u>Datto</u>		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">61-230-6</div>	
		<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">SP</div>	

DETAILS:

AT HAILEY, IDAHO

GEORGE A. McLEOD, Probate Judge, Hailey, Idaho, advised that ^{he} has resided continuously in this community since September 24, 1886. He said that no city, county or state records of vital statistics were kept in Idaho prior to 1907. He advised that he is positive of this date in view of the fact that he was serving as a member of the legislature of Idaho at the time the instant law was enacted. Judge McLEOD said that he was not personally acquainted with the Subject of the instant investigation nor was he acquainted with the Subject's father, HOMER L. POUND. However, he said that as a result of his clerical research in connection with the writing of a book which was published in 1936, the Judge advised that he had ascertained that the Subject was born in Hailey, Idaho, on October 30, 1886. He stated that this information came from the newspaper which was then known as the "Woodriver Daily News Miner" of October 31, 1886. He advised that the Subject's father, HOMER L. POUND, was the first register of the United States Land Office, was located at Hailey, Idaho, for four years, from 1883 to 1887. This informant produced a copy of his book which is entitled "History of Alturas and Blaine Counties, Idaho," on page 115 of which was noted an item which mentioned the Subject as a native son of Hailey, Idaho, who has been living abroad for a number of years.

Judge McLEOD stated further that he recalled that Subject's grandfather was at one time governor of the State of Wisconsin. The files of the "Hailey Times" newspaper now operating in that community were searched and a copy of the "Woodriver Daily News Miner" dated October 31, 1886, reflects the following news item:

"Register POUND'S family was increased yesterday by a brand new baby boy. Receiver Waters and wife returned from their visit to Kansas. The Hailey land office experienced an eventful day."

It is noted that the son born to Mr. POUND was not referred to by name. It is further noted that the date mentioned above is at variance with the date furnished by Judge McLEOD. However, it is felt that Judge McLEOD is in error inasmuch as he advised that his information came from the article which is quoted above. This article was in the newspaper issue of October 31, 1886, and not 1886 as stated by Judge McLEOD.

Reverend JAMES OPIE, pastor of Emanuel Episcopal Church, produced his record of births and baptisms dating back to 1883. These records were searched in an effort to establish the birthdate of the Subject. However, his name was not found in the instant records.

Father T. J. AMERN of St. Charles Catholic Church, produced birth and baptism records for that church. These records were thoroughly searched. However, the Subject's name does not appear. Father AMERN advised that all

birth and baptismal records of the Catholic Church since its establishment in the old Idaho Territory are in possession of the Catholic Priest at Boise, Idaho, Father ROWE, 418 Idaho Street, Boise, Idaho. It is noted that the above two churches are the only churches which were established in Hailey, Idaho, at the time of the Subject's birth.

Mrs. LELA MONTGOMERY, City Clerk of Hailey, Idaho, advised that no city records in the nature of vital statistics were kept in Hailey, Idaho, prior to the year 1890. JOSEPH J. McFADDEN advised that he first settled in Hailey, Idaho, in September, 1886, at which time he was fifteen years of age. He advised that he has lived there continuously since that time and further that he was personally acquainted with the father of the Subject in instant case. He advised that the Subject's father was HOMER L. POUND, who was the Register of the United States Land Office, Hailey, Idaho, from 1885 to 1887, stating further he had personally met the Subject's grandfather who at that time was either governor or ex-governor of the State of Wisconsin. He said that this occurred during the year 1885. Mr. McFADDEN said that he was personally acquainted with HOMER L. POUND even before the year 1885 having known him in other sections of the old Idaho Territory. This Informant recalls that EKRA POUND was born in Hailey, Idaho, during the fall of 1885. However, he was unable to recall the exact date.

It was also ascertained from Mr. McFADDEN that Subject's father left Hailey, Idaho, in the year 1887, taking the Subject with him. Mr. McFADDEN advised that to his knowledge the Subject has not returned to Hailey, Idaho, at any time since that date. After his departure from Hailey, Idaho, the Subject's father became associated with the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and for several years after his departure from Idaho, HOMER L. POUND corresponded with this Informant. He said he learned through this correspondence that the Subject had been living in Europe for a number of years. McFADDEN said that he has not heard from the Subject's father for a great many years.

The following affidavit was obtained from Mr. McFADDEN at this time, the original of which is being forwarded to the Baltimore Office and a copy of which is being retained in the Butte file.

"AFFIDAVIT OF J. J. McFADDEN.

"STATE OF IDAHO,

SS.

"COUNTY OF BLAINE.

"J. J. McFadden being duly sworn says he is, and has been since about August 1, 1886, a resident of Hailey, Idaho. That he is a native born citizen of the U.S.

"That in the fall of 1885 he was well and personally acquainted with one Homer L. Pound, who was Register of the

U.S. Land Office, at Halley, Idaho at the time; that he also met the father of said Fourn, who was then either the Governor, or ex-Governor of one of the North Middle States, believes it was Wisconsin.

"That he remembers there was born to said Homer L. Fourn, during the Fall of 1885, a son, at Halley, Idaho.

"That said son was named Ezra.

"That said Homer L. Fourn was later in the U.S. Mint at Philadelphia, and many years ago affiant had some correspondence with him, and his son was mentioned, the son Ezra being in Italy at the time, residing there.

/s/ J. J. McFadden

"Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of Dec. 1942.

/s/ B. P. Thoma
Clerk of the District Court"

It was deemed advisable to secure this affidavit in view of Mr. McFadden's advanced age and physical infirmity. Relative to Mr. McFadden's use as a witness, the following information is set forth. Mr. McFadden's age is at the present time seventy-two. He is actively practicing law in Halley, Idaho, however, he is completely deaf and the above interview was conducted by means of writing questions. He is physically infirm, however, at the present time his mind is keen and alert. His memory appears to have been unimpaired by his advanced age and he answered questions without hesitation.

NOTE:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent JAMES A.

AT HOLIST, IDAHO

Reverend K. P. NOYE, Catholic Priest with offices at 418 Idaho Street, made a thorough search of the baptismal records of the Catholic Church for the cities of Halley, Shoshone, Pocatello, Boise, and other cities in eastern and southern Idaho where Dr. EZRA FOUND might have been born, but was unable to locate any record of Dr. FOUND. Reverend NOYE advised that he did not conduct his search to the year 1885 and was certain that no one by that name had been baptized into the Catholic Church in this area. The name FOUND did not appear among his records.

ENCLOSURE:

TO BATTLEMENT FIELD OFFICE -
Original affidavit of J. J. McFadden

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-34099

Date: May 27, 1943

To: SAC, Baltimore

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: DR. EZRA POUND
TREASON

The Bureau has recently received a request from the Office of War Information for information regarding the background and possible criminal records on American citizens who are engaged in propaganda broadcasting activities for Axis nations.

A review of the file in the above-captioned case indicates that Pound was born at Hailey, Idaho on October 30, 1885. He received a Ph. B. degree at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, and received his M.A. degree at the University of Pennsylvania.

It is desired that the Butte, New York, and Philadelphia Field Divisions, respectively, check for a local arrest record regarding the captioned subject.

In view of the fact that this information is desired by another Governmental Agency, reports should be submitted within two weeks after this letter is received.

✓ CC: Butte
New York
Philadelphia

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61-530-97

Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
JUN - 1 1943	
BUTTE, MONTANA	
RECEIVED	FILE
MAJ	IA5W

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**

Butte FILE NO. **61-230**

REPORT MADE AT Butte, Montana	DATE WHEN MADE 6/16/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/7/43	REPORT MADE BY ARTHUR S. WEBB FP
TITLE DR. EZRA POUND			CHARACTER OF CASE TREASON

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No criminal record Hailey, Idaho. Subject moved with parents from Hailey, Idaho, when less than one year of age.

RUC

Reference: Bureau letter to Baltimore, May 27, 1943.

Details:

AT HAILEY, IDAHO

EDDIE FAGAN, Deputy Sheriff, reviewed his records and advised that the Subject's name does not appear therein.

GEORGE McLEOD, Probate Judge, advised that the Subject's father was the first Federal land office representative in Blaine County and stated that instant office was occupied by the Subject's father until approximately July, 1886. Inasmuch as the Subject was born on October 30, 1885, at Hailey, Idaho, this information would indicate that the Subject was taken from Hailey, by his parents, when less than one year of age. Judge McLEOD stated further that immediately upon finishing his term of office, the Subject's father moved from Hailey, Idaho.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		61	230
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COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Baltimore ② - Butte		CLASSIFIED TO..... EXTENDED TO..... INDEXED..... SERIALIZED..... FILED..... <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">JP</div>	

In connection with the above interview it is to be noted that Judge MELROE is quite old at the present time and in addition to personal knowledge of the above events, it is mentioned that several years ago he wrote a history of this particular section of Idaho, wherein the term of office of the Subject's father is mentioned. It is felt, therefore, that the above information is accurate.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FBI BALTIMORE

6-19-43

10-48 AM

FFA

SCS BUTTE, NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

LIME. DR. EZRA POUND, TREASON. REPORT OF CRIMINAL RECORD OF SUBJECT
NOW OVERDUE. EXPEDITE.

SOUCY

NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA NOTIFIED.

END

OK FBI BUTTE LB

*Report sent out
6-15-43.
File stripped re
1/2/72*

CLASSIFIED _____
SEARCHED 2-4
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 2-4
FILED _____

61-230-9	
Federal Bureau of Investigation U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	
JUN 19 1943	
BUTTE, MONTANA	
ROUTED TO:	FILE <u>✓</u>